

is Associate Commissioner for Legislative Development. On July 3, he will retire after a career of public service spanning more than 30 years.

Mr. Phillips began his public service as a member of the United States Army. After his military service, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam, he began his career in the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative in the local office in Alton, IL. He was promoted to the Operations Supervisor in the Rock Island, IL Social Security office in 1980. In 1983, Web was selected as a management intern and completed a series of developmental assignments in the Chicago Regional Office and in SSA Headquarters in Baltimore. In 1987, Web moved to Baltimore and joined the staff of the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs. Since 1995, Web has been assigned to SSA's Legislative Affairs Office in Washington. He was selected to serve in his current position as Associate Commissioner of Legislative Development in February 1999.

Ways and Means Committee Members and staff of both parties have had the pleasure of working with Web on many issues relating to Social Security during his tenure at SSA. The Subcommittee on Social Security, in particular, has benefited greatly from Web's in-depth knowledge of all aspects of Social Security policy and operations. Web has been unfailingly responsive and professional, and always provides Members and Committee staff with timely, accurate, and thorough information and analysis. Of special note is his contribution to the development of the legislation, enacted by Congress in 1994, that established the Social Security Administration as an independent agency.

It is important that we in Congress recognize the men and women who devote their working lives to improving the lives of others. Career civil servants usually do their work in quiet anonymity behind the scenes, but provide vital service to the Congress and the American people. Webster Phillips is one of those people. His record of leadership at the Social Security Administration and his commitment to providing the American people with effective and compassionate service is a record of which he can be justly proud.

We wish Web all the best in his retirement from the Social Security Administration and thank him for his many years of dedicated federal service.

**TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON COUNTY,
WEBSTER CITY, AND THE WEBSTER CITY DAILY FREEMAN-JOURNAL**

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hamilton County, Webster City, and the Webster City Daily Freeman-Journal on their 150th year anniversary. Hamilton County is located in north central Iowa and is home to approximately 16,500 people. It was named in honor of William W. Hamilton, who served as President of the Iowa State Senate from 1856–1857. Hamilton County was home to MacKinlay Kantor who won the Pul-

itzer Prize for Fiction in 1956 for his novel *Andersonville*.

The county seat of Hamilton County is Webster City, which is located along the Boone River. The city was started by Wilson Brewer when he built a log cabin by the Boone River. Brewer and William Flakes platted the town of Newcastle, which was later sold for \$22,000 to Walter Wilson and his brother Sumler. Wilson was eventually elected State representative; in that capacity he requested the help of William Hamilton to divide the rather large county of Webster into two counties, Webster and Hamilton. The act of January 1, 1857 officially changed the city name from Newcastle to Webster City.

Throughout its long tenure The Daily Freeman-Journal has provided excellent national, state, and local news coverage to the people of Webster City and Hamilton County. The Daily Freeman-Journal is Hamilton County's longest continuously operating business. Throughout its history, the paper has won numerous awards including the Governor's Volunteer Award, Outstanding Outreach/Community Service Newspaper, numerous advertising awards, and several best page awards.

Again, I congratulate Hamilton County, Webster City, and The Daily Freeman-Journal on this historic anniversary.

**RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING
THE DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS,
PRIME MINISTERS, AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THE
CARIBBEAN TO WASHINGTON, DC**

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome an impressive delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC for the first "Conference on the Caribbean" through the coordination of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the State Department, and Congress.

This multifaceted and dynamic region is strikingly promising, offering an array of opportunities. CARICOM is committed to enhancing economic integration through a common market and common trade policies. Members of this organization are also committed to increasing their functional cooperation by pooling resources and services in the area of human and social development, as well as coordinating foreign policy objectives that make a concerted stride for regional advancement.

The fact that this meeting is taking place in our Nation's capitol is indeed something that I applaud. However, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize the concentrated costs associated with developing an institutional framework needed to secure deeper regional integration. Therefore, it is essential that the international community invests in the socioeconomic infrastructure of this lucrative region in order to increase competitiveness and development. Aggressively pursuing partnerships and seizing opportunities to open markets are instrumental in securing a progressive future for this often ignored region.

This fortified partnership is much needed to address plaguing social dilemmas that warrant

international attention. As HIV/AIDS, crime, and poverty ripple through the Caribbean region, we must be compelled to advocate for this region's growing plights. The increasing West Indian influence in the U.S. legitimizes the need for continued U.S.-Caribbean relations. According to 2000 census data an estimated 1.9 million of the total U.S. population comes from a West Indian background.

I am proud to represent Florida's 23rd district where approximately 115,000, or 18 percent of the entire district, has a Caribbean heritage. The growing presence of West Indians in South Florida, New York, and Washington, DC, has contributed to enhancing multicultural communities that are committed to economic development and social advancement.

I applaud this important step, and look forward to working with CARICOM to improve the overall relations between the U.S. Congress and our Caribbean allies.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional musician, Mr. Bob James. The career of Bob James is long, varied, and continues to evolve at every turn. From his first piano recital in Marshall, MO to the formation of his own trio while attending the University of Michigan to the gigs in New York City and beyond, the music of Bob James has captivated audiences throughout the world.

Bob James recorded his first solo album "Bold Conceptions" not long after he was discovered by Quincy Jones at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival in 1963. Another 25 solo albums would follow within a span of four decades. However, that does not include his Grammy Award-winning collaboration projects. However, it was not until Bob James met up with Creed Taylor in New York that his composing, arranging and recording career took off. After working with such CTI Recording artists as Hank Crawford and Grover Washington, Jr., James finally recorded his own album, "One." This introduced his music to a much larger audience and launched a lifelong career of recording and performing live.

Bob James moved to Warner Brothers Records in 1985, beginning an association with another million seller and Grammy Award-winning album "Double Vision." This album was a collaboration with David Sanborn. In 1990, while recording the "Grand Piano Canyon" album, Bob James reunited with his old friend, drummer Harvey Mason and worked for the first time with Lee Ritenour on guitar and Nathan East on bass. The recording sessions for this project were the genesis of the group "Fourplay." Their first album was recorded and released in 1991.

Bob James experienced a personal and professional career highlight when he collaborated with his daughter Hilary on the "Flesh & Blood" album. The music for the project was jointly written by the two of them. They later toured 15 U.S. cities in acoustic vocal and piano duet performances.

Madam Speaker, I cannot say enough about Mr. Bob James. He has been considerate in